

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ARMY OFFICERS PROMOTED; MINISTERS TO BE DISMISSED

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT AMIN HAS ANNOUNCED SPATE OF NEW PROMOTIONS IN ARMY AND AIR FORCE AND HAS REASSIGNED A NUMBER OF OFFICERS INCLUDING ONE TO MINISTERIAL RANK. ALL MINISTERS AND ACTING MINISTERS WILL BE DISMISSED BEFORE NEW CABINET IS APPOINTED, HE DECLARED. REORGANIZATION OF CABINED AND EMBASSIES WILL NOW BEGIN. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENTS IN UGANDA ARMED FORCES WERE ANNOUNCED JUNE 20 BY PRESIDENT AMIN:
BRIGADIER FRANCIS NYANGWESO, COMMANDER OF ARMY, TO MAJOR- GENERAL;
LT. COL. SMARTS GUWEDDEKO, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE, TO
COLONEL AND COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE; COL. TOKO, FORMER COMMANDER
OF AIR FORCE, WILL BE REASSIGNED UNDER REORGANIZATION OF GO
ADMINISTRATION; COL. CHARLES ARUBE, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS,
PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER AND MADE CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED
FORCES (ARMY, AIR FORCE, AND NAVY); COL. MOSES ALI TO
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO; LT. COL. MALERA, HEAD OF MILITARY
POLICE, TO FULL COLONEL; LT. COL. ELI, HEAD OF BOMBO TRAINING
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WING, REASSIGNED AS COMMANDER OF MALIRE MECHANIZED SPECIALISTS RECONNISANCE REGIMENT REPLACING LT. COL. MUSA; CAPTAIN SABUNI TO MAJOR AND APPOINTED COMMANDER OF PARATROOP SCHOOL; LT. COL. BUNYENYEZI, FORMER PARATROOP SCHOOL COMMANDER, WILL BE REASSIGNED ; LT. IBRAHIM TO MAJOR AND COMMANDER OF COMMANDO BATTALION; LT. AMIN (SECOND IN COMMAND TO IBRAHIM) TO CAPTAIN.

2. ANTICIPATING FOREIGN CRITICISM, AMIN POINTED OUT THAT OFFICERS PROMOTED WERE FROM ALL REGIONS OF UGANDA AND PROMOTIONS WERE THEREFORE NOT BASED ON TRIBALISM.

3. COMMENTING ON COL. MOSES ALI'S ASSIGNMENT AS MINISTER, AMIN CRITICIZED MINISTERS WHO COULD NOT KEEP SECRETS AND WHO WERE NOT HONEST WITH PEOPLE OF UGANDA. HE WARNED THAT MINISTERS ENGAGING IN SUBVERSION WOULD BE COURT MARTIALED AND EXECUTED.

4. IN SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT AMIN SAID ALL MINISTERS AND ACTING MINISTERS WOULD BE DISMISSED BEFORE NEW CABINET IS FORMED, THAT IS, ALL EXCEPT BRIGADIER KILI AND COL. MOSES ALI, WHO WILL BE RETAINED AS MINISTERS. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MAJOR GENERAL NYANGWESO, BRIGADIER ARUBE AND COLONEL GUWEDDEKO WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE STATE SUPREME COUNCIL AND THAT THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIRFORCE WOULD HENCEFORTH HAVE ONLY QUARTERMASTERS GENERAL, NOT DEPUTY COMMANDERS.

5. AMIN FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS NOW COMPLETED REORGANIZATION OF STATE SUPREME COUNCIL, ARMED FORCES, AND CHIEFS, AND HE WOULD NOW CONCENTRATE ON CABINET, PERMANENT SECRETARIES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS. UGANDA'S EMBASSIES ABROAD WOULD ALSO BE REORGANIZED TO ASSURE THAT PROPER PEOPLE ARE APPOINTED TO THE RIGHT JOBS.

6. IN ANNOUNCING MILITARY PROMOTIONS, AMIN MADE SEVERAL REMARKS ABOUT THE ECONOMY. SOME LARGE FIRMS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO COOPERATIVES, WHICH CAN EXPAND THEM. HE SPECULATED ON POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING FRUIT PROCESSING FACTORIES FOR EXPORT TRADE. HE URGED PORTERS, HOTEL STAFF, AND OTHERS TO REFUSE TIPS. UGANDA SHOULD SEEK NEW EXPORT MARKETS. PRODUCTION IN UGANDA WILL TREBLE IN TWO YEARS, HE DECLARED.

7. ON INTERNAL SECURITY THE PRESIDENT WARNED THAT SOME TOURISTS
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MAY BE MERCENARIES AND IF FOUND OUT THEY SHOULD BE ARRESTED AND DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO UGANDA'S LAWS. HE ASKED FOR DECISION FROM OFFICERS ON FATE OF S/ SGT. ARCHANGEL BARU, CONVICTED OF KILLING KENYA AIR FORCE OFFICER IN 1971. THEY ARE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD BE EXECUTED. AMIN ALSO DIRECTED THAT A MILITARY TRIBUNAL BE SET UP TO TRY ACTING GOMBOLOLA CHIEF OF USUKU IN TESO ON CHARGES OF BEATING TWO PEOPLE TO DEATH.

TRIBUNAL WILL BE CHAIRED BY COL. MALERA.

8. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HE HAS DECIDED THAT IF WAR BREAKS OUT IN MIDDLE EAST MEMBERS OF UGANDA AIR FORCE AND NAVY WHO ARE TRAINING OVERSEAS MUST FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE EGYPTIANS. AND IF TANZANIA IS ATTACKED BY IMPERIALISTS AND RACISTS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA, UGANDA IS READY TO HELP MILITARILY.

9. COMMENT: REMOVAL FROM KEY COMMAND OF BUNYENYEZI IS NO SURPRISE, AS HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE LEADER OF OR PARTICIPANT IN AN ANTI- AMIN COUP. BUT REMOVAL OF MUSA AS COMMANDER OF KEY MALIRE REGIMENT IN KAMPALA IS SIGNIFICANT, FOR MUSA HAS BEEN KNOWN AS AN AMIN LOYALIST. IT WAS PRIMARILY MUSA, THEN A SERGEANT- MAJOR, WHO ENGINEERED 1971 COUP THAT BROUGHT AMIN TO POWER.

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